doctors join duties in rural areas as and when posted. The Government of Assam is also contemplating to introduce incentive and punitive measures to ensure availability of doctors in rural areas.

ICMR meetings with soft drink manufacturers

3104. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has finalized the standards for sugar content in soft drinks in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact the ICMR had a number of meetings with representatives of multinational soft drink companies;

(c) if so, the details of such meetings;

(d) whether ICMR has refused to invite NGOs agitating against the obesity generating soft drinks; and

(e) the steps proposed to have ICMR conduct proper studies and take a fair stance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) ICMR has undertaken a study to detect level of pesticide residues, if any, in sugar samples.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research has not organised any meetings with representatives of multinational soft drinks companies so far.

(d) No, this is not correct.

(e) Studies conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research would be based on scientific methodology and would be subject on appropriate peer review.

BIS certification to milk products

3105. SHRlMATl S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a draft notification to Amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955;